

LITERATURE.

It may be interesting for those who like to know some of the side scenes in literary life, to give them an idea of the number of copies of the most popular works which are sold by the publishers. We will quote the single instance of the publications of Sheldon & Co., New York. Their list includes the works of "Marion Harland" (Mrs. Terhune), one of the best, and perhaps the most popular female author which this country has yet produced. Her "Alone" was originally published by a Richmond publisher, who made a good thing of it; it then passed into the hands of Derby & Jackson, of New York, who published, also, some of her subsequent works (paying her in one six months time about \$4700 copyright), and finally the plates were purchased by Sheldon & Co., who have since published her "Miriam," "Huska," and "Husband and Home." "Alone," it is believed, has sold to over 60,000 copies; and the first editions of any of her books now sell on an average from 15,000 to 20,000 copies—outselling even the works of Dickens. Mrs. Ford's "Grace Truman," issued some three years ago, has sold up to the present time over 35,000 copies. The same house published the works of Jacob Abbott, popularly known as "Rollis Travels," of which no less than 140,000 copies have been sold.

The *Bound Table*, in a caustic article on Bancroft's Oration, at the Capital, sums up its criticisms in the following just review:

"It is hardly even a biography, a personal eulogy, a criticism of character—certainly not a panegyric. It may be anything else—a treatise on diplomacy, a political thesis, a caustic article on England, Austria, and France, a castigation of Napoleon, Palmerston, Pius IX, a legal rejoinder to Taney, Buchanan, Lord Russell, a supplementary volume to Bancroft's 'History of the United States'—and in the latter case, as we have said, a far truer, less turgid, better written, more valuable portion than its predecessors, and a great deal better reading. Biographical orations, indeed, permit broad national settings for individual portraits, as not to go far for illustration—in Everett's oration on Washington. But Mr. Bancroft's address is like those affairs in the print-shop windows, with an inch of canvas to a foot of frame. It is a *Hamlet* with the prince's part cut out, indeed, but badly abbreviated. If it be a funeral oration, it is one made over the corpse of slavery, over the bier of secession, whereto we have bitter gibes, not tender memorials, and at which as they did over Lincoln's death in Matamoros one does not light funeral pyres, but bonfires of joy. For what it is, however, it will confer renown on its author, and is a valuable contribution to the history of the times. We especially commend the simple single sentence in which the assassination is touched. To allusion is made to the name of Charles, the murderer. We are heartily sick of that purring weekly novel style of description which glazes over the horrors of the scene in Ford's Theatre, and wastes the feeling in detestation of the wretched criminal which ought to be expended in love and admiration for Abraham Lincoln."

The following petition is being extensively circulated among the literary world, and were there any prospect of its design being accomplished we would favor the prosecution of the scheme.

"We, the undersigned, citizens of the United States, do most respectfully represent to your honorable bodies that the true interests of American literature demand the adoption of an International Copyright Law by this Government, and that of Great Britain, and do pray that you will enact such measure or measures as will secure at the earliest possible day the consideration of such a law by the two Governments herein mentioned. And your petitioners will ever pray, etc."

The following excellent idea is thrown out in a letter from this city to one of the New York weeklies:—"A history of the newspapers of every town, city, and State ought to be undertaken while materials for such a valuable contribution to general knowledge are obtainable. Wherever there is a Press Club, as in Philadelphia and New York, it would not be difficult, one would think, to have a history of each newspaper written by some person or persons connected with it." We must correct the writer in one particular. There is no Press Club in New York, or any other city but Philadelphia. The idea originated here, and all attempts to institute such an association elsewhere have failed from no mutual ill feeling and jealousy.

We must acknowledge the receipt from Messrs. Sower, Barnes & Potts, No. 36 N. Third street, of two more of their valuable school works. One a "Compendium of Geology," and the other a "Commentary on the United States Constitution." To them can be applied, in every sense of the word, the name of standard publications. The house from whose presses they issue has achieved a reputation second to none as the publishers of educational works.

We have received from Messrs. T. B. Peterson & Brothers two exciting works, one entitled the "Demon of the North," by Victor Hugo, and the "Queen's Revenge," by Wilkie Collins. The name of their authors is sufficient to secure for them an immense sale.

Mr. Bayard Taylor's new novel, which is on the eve of publication, is entitled "The Story of Kennett," the village in which the chief scenes are laid. It is in Chester county, Pennsylvania, a pastoral, lovely region not unlike Warwickshire, England. The time of the novel is about the beginning of the present century. Mr. Taylor was born at Kennett, where he has a country-seat which he calls Cedarcroft. His winter residence, when not on a lecturing tour, is generally in New York.

"E. Foston," the author of "Herman; or, Young Knighthood," made her debut in letters in pages of the *Union Magazine*, through a poem of some length entitled "The Mandrake; or, Alice's Bridal." It was a ballad, or nearly so, and portions of it were quite spirited.

Mr. G. H. Kingsley, M. D., another member of the Kingsley family, who are already numerous enough in letters, has recently edited Thynne's undated version of Spelght's Chaucer, for the Early English Text Society, in a novel and frisky manner, hardly in keeping with the old-fashioned gravity of his author, and with but a scanty share of erudition.

Mr. Walter Thornbury has a new novel in the press, entitled "Greatheart: a Story of Modern Life."

Victor Hugo's new book, "Les Travailleurs de la Mer," is in the press at Brussels. The first volume is already printed, and M. Paul Meurice, who superintended the publication in Paris of the *Chansons des Rues et des Bois*, is to perform the same office for "Les Travailleurs."

Where Shakespeare picked up his multifarious knowledge of the arts and professions has long been a puzzle to his commentators, one of whom maintains that he must have been a lawyer, or at least a lawyer's clerk, in his younger days; another a schoolmaster or usher;

a third, a physician; and so on through the learned trades of his time. That he shows an astonishing knowledge of physics, and scholarship, and law, is certain, though, for that matter, it is no more astonishing than his knowledge of farming and of ship-craft. Where he obtained it we shall never know, much to our sorrow, since our ignorance in this particular is likely to make so many books in elucidation thereof, each one of which will leave us more ignorant than it found us. An addition to this special branch of Shakespeareana will soon be published by Messrs. Hurd & Houghton, under the title of "Shakespeare's Delineation of Insanity, Imbecility, and Suicide."

The writer of this work is Dr. O. A. Kellogg, assistant physician of the Utica Insane Asylum. We are not familiar with Dr. Kellogg's "views," but we understand that he believes Shakespeare to have been the keeper of an insane asylum, or that he might have been the keeper of such a refuge for diseased wits, provided that an institution of the sort existed in his day, which we presume, was the case. What proofs he brings in support of this theory, outside of the knowledge of insanity shown in Shakespeare's works, we are not informed, nor do we care to know in advance. Our own opinion is that the theory is as correct as that which makes Shakespeare a lawyer, or that which makes him a school-master; or even the tradition which Aubrey preserved that he was a butcher! If the "myriad-minded" bard were alive to-day, and would consent to fill the position, we would put him at the head of all the insane asylums in Christendom, with the understanding that he was to receive all his commentators as patients!

IMPORTANT FROM FRANCE.

Is There to be a Change of Front on the Mexican Question?—An Extraordinary Speech from Marshal Forey, in the Senate—He Urges the Retrenchment, rather than the Recall, of the French Troops—How the Marshal's Speech was Received—Explanations by the Minister of State.

Paris Correspondence (Feb. 13) London Times.

If Marshal Forey's speech in the Senate on Mexican affairs was prepared with the cognate idea, that it was the approval of the Emperor, as some pretend to believe, the return of the French army may not take place as soon as expected. Marshal Forey knows the subject well—no man better; and his statements bear the impress of truth.

M. Rouher tried to lessen the effect which his words might produce out of doors by affirming that the opinion of the Government was not affected by anything the late Commander-in-Chief of the French army in Mexico said; that the sentiment expressed by the Emperor on the throne were still the same, and that the Marshal gave utterance to his own private views, and to those of no one else.

M. Rouher is Minister of State, and, in theory, Prime Minister—but it is no more than theory, and M. Rouher knows it very well. The "opinion of the Government" it is by movement of the members of the Cabinet only, is, no doubt, the same it always was; and it was from the outset as much opposed to the expedition to Mexico as that of the public generally. But sometimes occurs that the views of the Emperor, however different from those of his Ministers, and they never were more so than on this question of Mexico.

Nothing shows more clearly the ignorance of the non-official writers who have been describing Mexico as now perfectly able to take care of herself, than Marshal Forey's speech. The account he gives of the country, and the disastrous consequences of the immediate departure of the French, must be correct, and known to be so by the Emperor. The Emperor complains that the "great idea" developed in his Majesty's letter to the Commander of the Forces is not rightly understood in France, and he declares it as his deliberate opinion that it would be highly dangerous to bring back the troops.

To speak of national spirit existing in Mexico is absurd. There is no national spirit there, and if such a thing as national spirit ever existed, long continued anarchy has annihilated it. The moment the army returned from Mexico, the whole of the French residents would have to return with it—and if they remained would be exposed to acts of violence from the Mexicans, than any yet witnessed. But it is not French citizens and French interests only that have to be defended. France must have regard to the population who received her soldiers with open arms, and who cannot be abandoned to their enemies.

When people say that those who cried "Vive Maximilian" should now defend him, they do not reflect that the Mexicans have not acquired sufficient confidence in their own strength for they have been utterly demoralized by those who oppressed and plundered them. They must be allowed time to grow into strength and courage; but France must continue by their side and help them to support the Government they have chosen for themselves. France surely would not incur the reproach of not having fully comprehended the great idea of the Emperor; but, above all, she cannot deliver up these populations to the vengeance of their oppressors.

At the very first intelligence of the retreat of the French, the promoters of discord would reappear on the scene. The brigands who are now scattered would once more rally round the flag of justice. The Marshal gave as a proof of what he stated the fact that even at the towns evacuated by the French troops are at once abandoned by the inhabitants, so intense is the dread of reprisals from the partisans of Juarez. Maximilian is doing his best to regenerate the unhappy country, but he is organizing the army, the finances, public institutions, the administration of justice.

He listens to the advice of those sent out to him by the Emperor Napoleon; and the Mexicans have before their eyes a model the courage and discipline of the French army. With respect to the relations subsisting between France and the United States, Marshal Forey observed he was not competent to say any more than this—he had too much esteem for the great American Republic to think that it would prefer a republic to plunders and brigands in Mexico to a monarchy with honorable men, based on the principles of civilization.

He asked, What must now be done to complete the moral work which France has undertaken? His deliberate opinion was that more troops must be sent to Mexico, and, as this statement called forth murmurs among the Senators, he added that if not more troops, at least those that were there should remain, and more sacrifices in money must be made. It was once said that France was rich enough to pay for her glory, and would it be glorious to leave imperfect the enterprise she has commenced in a distant land? He admitted that money had its importance, but it was not that which he had in mind, the realization of so great a design, conceived by the Emperor, should be endangered? He did not think so.

When the Marshal concluded his speech, a few Senators said, "Very good, very good; but even these few applauded him much less because they agreed with him as to the necessity of French sacrifices of men and money, than out of compliment to himself. Still, however adverse they and others may be to a longer occupation of Mexico, they all agreed in the description of the parts of the country not held by the French as most probably correct.

No man considers himself safe when the French soldiers are out of sight, and the French drums out of hearing. It has been repeated over and over again that the hordes that no longer oppress the unhappy Mexicans were scattered, demoralized, completely discouraged, and utterly powerless for evil. Marshal Forey, whose authority cannot be called in question, solemnly declares that the moment the last French soldier quits the country the same hordes will issue from their hiding places and, on their former leaders, an

that the great work of pacification and regeneration will now have to be commenced again. It is now too late to object that the labor should never have been undertaken; but as it has been undertaken it cannot be relinquished before it is half accomplished. It would be cruel to abandon the Mexicans who welcomed the French as their liberators to the vengeance of enemies who will on that account show them less mercy than before, and it would be strange indeed if the French people left their own country to the fate which awaits them.

No doubt the regeneration of a people is slow; and it is not easy to excite a national spirit by means of a force. But the example of the French army does much in inspiring the Mexicans with self-dignity, which they certainly do not now feel. Those who now fly from their homes, not because they are numerically inferior to their spoilers, but because their spirit has been long broken, do not yet know all they might do; and sooner or later, and under such teachers, they will shake off their torpor, and learn that their safety consists, not in flight, but in resistance to their enemies.

I cannot say what truth there is in the rumor that there was a concert between Marshal Forey and the Emperor, but I believe that the sentiments to which he gave utterance are not very different from those of the Emperor, though he declared he merely spoke for himself. With respect to the changed which the Marshal would be sure to follow from the withdrawal of the French army, *La France* observes:—"Two considerations reassure us. The first, that no one in France and no one out of France can desire or hope that we should quit Mexico, and abandon without guarantee, to the hazard of violent reaction and anarchical passions, the interests which we went to that country to guard. The second is, that if we quit Mexico the respect due to our name and the knowledge of our power will remain after us, and in no quarter of the world is anybody ignorant that the sword of France is never too far off to protect a right or to avenge an injury."

What the guarantees may be of which *La France* speaks is not clear. Perhaps it hopes that the Americans will themselves support the throne of Maximilian against its domestic enemies. No doubt France is powerful to defend her rights, and to punish those who invade them; but if the rights which she is, the right of the Emperor Maximilian, be attacked, France would have to send out a second army, and begin again. It would be much better to remain until the Mexicans are able to protect their own rights, and avenge their own wrongs, but which, Marshal Forey believed, and he has not been contradicted—they are yet in competent to do.

We learn from the *Historical Magazine* that William A. Jones, the critic and essayist, has lately retired from the University of Columbia College, which he has held for the last fourteen years. How acceptably he has fulfilled the duties of that office, the emphatic testimonials of some of the leading members of the Board of Trustees of that University tell us. The college is fortunate in his successor, Mr. Robinson Bette, an accomplished scholar and gentleman, for some years past rector of the Episcopal church at Maspeth, Long Island.

SURVEY NOTICE.

All persons interested in the plan of the TENTH SECTION OF THE TWENTY-SECOND WARD.

Bounded as follows:—(Northwest by Stearns avenue, (Southeast by Mermad avenue, (Southwest by Mermad avenue, (Southeast by Gorges street.

Notified that the Court of Quarter Sessions for the City and County of Philadelphia, have fixed THURSDAY, March 29, 1866, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the Court Room, Main Building of the State House, to consider said plan and any objections against the same, which may be made by any interested party, and in the meanwhile the said plan may be seen at the Office of the Department of Surveys for the City of Philadelphia, and a Duplicate thereof at the Office of the Surveyor and Registrar of the Second Survey District, Depot Building, No. 212 N. FIFTH STREET, F. CARROLL BREWSTER, Surveyor and Registrar of the City of Philadelphia, 24 1st 25

SURVEY NOTICE.

All persons interested in the plan of the FOURTH SECTION OF THE TWENTY-SECOND WARD.

Bounded as follows:—(Northwest by Green street, (Southeast by Carpenter street, (Southwest by Washington avenue, (Southeast by Wisconsin avenue.

Notified that the Court of Quarter Sessions for the City and County of Philadelphia, have fixed THURSDAY, March 29, 1866, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the Court Room, Main Building of the State House, to consider said plan and any objections against the same, which may be made by any interested party, and in the meanwhile the said plan may be seen at the Office of the Department of Surveys for the City of Philadelphia, and a Duplicate thereof at the Office of the Surveyor and Registrar of the Second Survey District, Depot Building, No. 212 N. FIFTH STREET, F. CARROLL BREWSTER, Surveyor and Registrar of the City of Philadelphia, 24 1st 25

SURVEY NOTICE.

All persons interested in the plan of the TENTH SECTION OF THE FIFTH WARD.

Bounded as follows:—(On the North by Walnut street, (On the East by Delaware street, (On the South by Curtis street, (On the West by Fifth street.

Notified that the Court of Quarter Sessions for the City and County of Philadelphia, have fixed THURSDAY, March 29, 1866, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the Court Room, Main Building of the State House, to consider said plan and any objections against the same, which may be made by any interested party, and in the meanwhile the said plan may be seen at the Office of the Department of Surveys for the City of Philadelphia, and a Duplicate thereof at the Office of the Surveyor and Registrar of the Second Survey District, Depot Building, No. 212 N. FIFTH STREET, F. CARROLL BREWSTER, Surveyor and Registrar of the City of Philadelphia, 24 1st 25

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OFFICE, No. 415 WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA. CAPITAL PAID IN, IN CASH, \$200,000. This company continues to write on *Fire Risks* only its capital, with a good surplus, is safely invested.

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